

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 182

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States must allocate significantly more resources to combat global poverty and that the President's decision to establish the Millennium Challenge Account is a step in the right direction.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 16, 2001

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CORZINE, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

MAY 23, 2002

Reported by Mr. BIDEN, with an amendment, an amendment to the preamble, and an amendment to the title

JUNE 4, 2002

Considered, amended, and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States must allocate significantly more resources to combat global poverty and that the President's decision to establish the Millennium Challenge Account is a step in the right direction.

Whereas the World Bank estimates that 1,200,000,000 people in the world live on less than \$1 a day, and of these, more than 550,000,000 are in South Asia, which is 40

percent of the South Asian population, and more than 290,000,000 are in sub-Saharan Africa, which is approximately 50 percent of the sub-Saharan population;

Whereas 3,000,000,000 people, about half the world's population, live on approximately \$2 a day;

Whereas 1,200,000,000 people lack access to safe drinking water;

Whereas 2,900,000,000 people have inadequate access to sanitation;

Whereas at least 1,000,000,000 people in developing nations are unemployed or underemployed;

Whereas President Bush, by announcing the establishment of a Millennium Challenge Account committed the United States to spending significantly more money on foreign assistance beginning fiscal year 2004;

Whereas United States foreign assistance amounts to approximately \$30 per American citizen per year, not including the President's recently announced increases;

Whereas according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United States in recent years ranks next to last among 21 industrialized donor countries in per capita foreign assistance spending;

Whereas economic assistance can only be effective if it is linked to sound policies in developing nations;

Whereas open markets and free trade are important forces for economic development and poverty reduction;

Whereas the United States is a top importer of goods from developing countries, importing \$450,000,000,000 in 2000 which was 8 times greater than all official development assistance to developing countries from all donors;

Whereas the United States is the top source of private capital to developing countries, averaging \$36,000,000,000 annually between 1997 and 2000; and

Whereas reducing poverty, promoting equitable economic growth, and developing democratic institutions advances United States national security interests, and the failure to address these issues, and the resulting social, economic, and political instability and violence, places United States national security interests and the welfare and safety of United States citizens at risk: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) widespread poverty in developing nations contributes to social, economic, and political instability and violence which can lead to failed states and the conditions in which terrorist recruitment and terrorist organizations flourish;

(2) United States bilateral assistance programs and contributions to multilateral assistance programs must be robust enough to effectively address development needs;

(3) the United States, as the world's wealthiest, most powerful nation, should build on the idea behind President Bush's proposal for the Millennium Challenge Account and increase foreign assistance spending by at least 25 percent for the next 5 years with the goal of reaching an amount equal to or exceeding 3 percent of the Federal budget by 2010 in order to promote its hu-

manitarian, economic, and security interests around the world; and

(4) the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development should—

(A) conduct a top-to-bottom evaluation of current foreign assistance efforts to evaluate effectiveness;

(B) work with private voluntary organizations, foundations, and corporations to identify areas where increased, targeted foreign assistance could help reduce poverty and promote equitable economic growth and the development of democratic institutions; and

(C) not later than 6 months after the date of adoption of this resolution, submit a report to the appropriate committees in Congress describing the Administrator's findings and recommendations for foreign assistance funding and policies to reduce poverty and promote equitable economic growth and the development of democratic institutions.

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